

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4555

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0421

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: LABOR PARTY REJECTS INVITATION TO SUBMIT
NOMINATIONS FOR CRC SEATS

REF: CAPE TOWN 0350

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. LABOR PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE HAS
ENDORSED LEON AS CHAIRMAN OF CRC EXECUTIVE BUT HAS CALLED ON
HIM TO WITHDRAW PROPOSALS FOR NOMINATIVE MEMBERS. THIS
REPRESENTS SOME LOSS OF FACE FOR LEON AND PRESAGES MORE
CONFRONTATION THAN COOPERATION BETWEEN CRC'S NEW MAJORITY
PARTY AND GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE LABOR PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE, MEETING AT UITENHAGE
OVER WEEKEND, REVIEWED PARTY CAUVUS'S APPROVAL OF LEON'S
ACCEPTANCE TO CHAIR EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF COLORED PERSONS
REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (CRC) AND OF HIS PROPOSAL OF CANDIDATES
FOR CRC NOMINATIONS (REFTEL).

3. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE ENDORSED LEON'S ACCEPTANCE OF CRC
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMANSHIP; INDICATED THAT PARTY CAUCUS WOULD
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NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR OTHER FOUR SEATS ON CRC EXECUTIVE

AND FOR CRC CHAIRMAN (I.E., SPEAKER); BUT CALLED FOR WITHDRAWAL OF LEON'S NOMINEES FOR APPOINTIVE SEATS IN CRC. STATEMENT ISSUED AT CONCLUSION OF UITENHAGE MEETING SAID LEON HAD AGREED TO EXECUTIVE'S DECISION AND HAD SO INFORMED MINISTER OF COLORED AFFAIRS. STATEMENT WENT ON TO ADMIT THAT DIFFERENCES AS TO TACTICS HAD EXISTED WITHIN PARTY'S RANKS BUT THAT THERE WAS UNANIMITY AS TO ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF USING THE CRC AS A MEANS OF BRINGING ABOUT "TOTAL EMANCIPATION OF OUR PEOPLE." STATEMENT CONCLUDED PARTY HAD EMERGED STRONGER AND MORE CONSOLIDATED FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEETING.

4. SECRETARY OF CRC HAS INFORMED CONGEN THAT FIRST MEETING OF SECOND CRC WILL BE HELD ON MAY 13 WHEN CRC WILL VOTE ON LABOR PARTY'S NOMINEES FOR MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE AND CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL. CRC WILL THEN MOST PROBABLY BE PROROGUED BY MINISTER OF COLORED AFFAIRS. MEANWHILE, MINISTER WILL SUBMIT LEON'S CANDIDACY FOR CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE TO ACTING STATE PRESIDENT FOR APPROVAL AND WILL PROCEED WITH APPOINTMENT OF TWENTY NOMINATIVE MEMBERS OF CRC. CRC SECRETARY SPECULATED THAT EIGHT FEDERAL PARTY MEMBERS AND EIGHT "NON-POLITICAL" PERSONS WOULD BE APPOINTED, IN ADDITION TO TRADITIONAL TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF GRIQUA COLORED COMMUNITY AND TWO OF CAPE MALAY COMMUNITY.

5. COMMENT: OPEN BREACH WITHIN LABOR PARTY HAS THUS BEEN AVOIDED FOR TIME BEING, BUT WITH SOME LOSS OF FACE FOR LEON. LABOR WILL NOW CONTROL CRC WITH ONLY SLIM MAJORITY RATHER THAN COMFORTABLE ONE IT WOULD HAVE HAD WERE IT TO HAVE ACCEPTED MINISTER'S INVITATION TO PROPOSE SOME NOMINATIVE MEMBERS. DECISION REFLECTS BOTH PARTY'S OPPOSITION TO CONCEPT OF NOMINATIVE SEATS--WHICH IS WIDELY VIEWED AMONG PARTY LEADERS AS INVIDIOUS ILLUSTRATION OF GOVERNMENT'S PATRONIZING CONTROL OF COLORED POLITICAL AFFAIRS--AS WELL AS ITS DISINCLINATION TO CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING OF CRC AS AN INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT. AS THINGS LOOK NOW, SECOND CRC IS LIKELY TO BE STORMY EXPERIENCE IN CONFRONTATIONS.
GAMON

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